

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 1, 2010. Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 12-22 and for indicating the allowability of claims 2, 3, 5-11. Applicants have rewritten claim 2 in independent form as recommended by the Examiner and that claim is now in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended the dependencies of claims 4, 6 and 9 to depend from allowable claim 2, and those claims are now in condition for allowance. Claims 5-8 and 10-11 depend from rewritten claim 2 and also are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 23-29 in order to expedite prosecution in this matter. Applicants' cancellation of these claims is not an admission that these claims are not patentable in view of the cited references. Applicants' cancellation of these claims is without prejudice to Applicants' re-presentation of these claims in a further application.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 4 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,624,338 to Commereuc et al. Applicants have amended claim 4 to depend from allowable claim 2 and hence the rejection of claim 4 on this basis is now moot. Applicants have cancelled claim 1, without prejudice to re-present this claim, in order to expedite prosecution. Hence, the rejection of claim 1 is moot.

Rejections of Claims 23-29 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejects claims 23-29 as obvious over Application No. WO 02/0729920. Applicants have cancelled claims 23-29, without prejudice to re-present these claims, in order to expedite prosecution. Hence, the rejection of claims 23-29 is moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: July 2, 2010

By: _____/Janet A. Pioli/_____

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